

INDIANA STATE SENTINEL. INDIANAPOLIS, DECEMBER 13, 1845.

The Sinking Fund.

By reference to our House report, it will be seen that "J. Morrison, Jacob Walker, and J. P. Drake," have sent to the Legislature a "communication," asking an investigation of their conduct, in consequence of charges and insinuations made against them by a leading newspaper at Indianapolis.

If our reporter has correctly defined the object and terms of said communication, (which we believe he has,) and having no doubt but that the State Sentinel was alluded to, as the paper which it is asserted had made charges against the individuals above named, we feel called upon to notice it.

First—We never made such charges against either of the individuals named.

Second—What we did say was, that "rumors were rife" relative to the Sinking Fund, including its general management.

Now, while we had, and could have, no personal knowledge of its management, past or present, yet, on the strength of what we had heard others say, and of what we had reason to believe was true, and again, of admissions made by some connected with its management, independent of its secret operations, we felt bound, in justice to ourselves as well as to the whole people of the State, to call the attention of the Legislature to the subject. The Legislature is the only body which can examine this secret concern, or force them to show their hands. We recommended also, that an agent, invested with full powers, should be appointed to examine into the affairs of this fund, instead of any legislative committee, for reasons which will suggest themselves to every honest mind. We still hope that such an agent may be appointed; and who is neither to be bought nor bribed, and who will have time to give the whole matter a thorough overhauling. If it has been rightly managed—if it is now properly conducted, it will bear this examination with credit. If otherwise, the people should know it.

The very communication in question strengthens our opinion of its entire corruption. Why this anxiety to have a white-washing "committee" appointed because of our suggestion? Why did these commissioners not ask the appointment of an honest, qualified agent, with time and powers, to make a thorough examination?

Let our Legislature remember how many slurs were cast upon those who wished for, and appointed an agent to examine the State Bank. Then was it asked, "do they expect to find a mare's nest?" and lo! it was found within breathing distance of the question—and, in all probability, the examination caused thousands to be saved, and left the State with one rogue less. A committee might have been deceived in that case, as was attempted with the agent. We then urge it upon the Legislature to appoint such an agent. We are not satisfied, unless a committee pays more attention than they ordinarily do to such matters, that the Legislature will be any wiser than they were before, and it will be time lost.

Foreign Bondholders.

On Thursday a communication from Mr. Charles Butler, in behalf of the Foreign Bondholders of this State, was presented to the House of Representatives, under an envelope from the Governor, recommending the same to the consideration of the House. The Speaker suggested that Mr. Butler should be permitted to read his communication, and the House readily assented to the proposition. It went into an able analysis of the financial condition of the State, and its means and abilities past and prospective; and presented the claims of our creditors in a very strong light. It was listened to with great attention by the House, and members generally seemed to acquiesce in the justice and soundness of its positions. 1,000 copies were ordered of the State Printer. We shall lay the communication before the public in the columns of the State Sentinel.

Mr. Morrison "wonders how Chapman likes the election of Mr. Bright to the Senate," and intimates that we are disappointed by asserting that "though we may speak loud on paper, we are sick at heart."

We can assure Morrison that we like the election of Mr. Bright a great deal better than he (Morrison) likes the principle established by Mr. Bright's nomination and election. We mean the measure of the caucus, and the majority rule involved in it. It is an example that we like; and it is one as much disliked by Morrison; for it will have a tendency to break up that corrupt system of bargaining and intrigue, by which alone a few mousing politicians have, always worked themselves into office. This, to us, is far more gratifying than the election of our best personal friend could be. It will fix the future policy of the party, and will so effectually use up men of the Morrison stripe—the mere traders—that there will not long be left enough for a corporal's guard.

It is gratifying to witness the manner in which business has thus far progressed in the House of Representatives. On yesterday afternoon, at three o'clock, the files of the House were completely cleared. "Order," it is said by the poet, "is Heaven's first law," and should business progress in the House of Representatives in the manner in which it has been transacted for the past two weeks, Mr. Simonson will reap golden opinions in performing the duties of the chair—legislation so far as the House is concerned, will progress with great rapidity, and the public interests be greatly promoted. It is to be hoped that the files of the House will not be suffered to be crowded as they were at the last session, and the scenes which were witnessed at the close of the session last winter again be transacted. One hundred and fourteen bills and joint resolutions have already been presented and acted on in the House of Representatives.

By some sort of arrangement, the precise parameters of which we are not able to state, Mr. Godlove S. Orth, was on Friday morning elected President of the Senate, pro tempore, on the 90th balloting. The Senate then proceeded to the transaction of business, and cleared the files of every thing at an early hour of the afternoon.

CHEAP POSTAGE.—A Washington correspondent of the Journal of Commerce says: "We will find that the cheap postage law has made our republican government more economical, and less able to satisfy the inordinate demands of political favorites: therefore less expensive to the people: their public officers less liable to the charge of collusion and corruption. These consequences are the legitimate fruits of the reform: and I feel very confident that no man is better fitted to carry out the work, than its present faithful, able and laborious head."

HUSBAND AND WIFE TO BE HUNG.—At Fayetteville, Arkansas, on the 10th ult., sentence of death was passed upon Crawford and Lavinia Burnett, (husband and wife,) they having been found guilty of being accessories before the fact, in the murder of Jonathan Silbey, on the 12th of August last, in that county. Silbey was a bachelor, lived alone, an unfeeling and worthy man. At the instigation of the father and mother, above referred to, their son, John Burnett, in company with his cousin, by the name of Sharp, repaired to the dwelling of Silbey in the night, situated about a mile and a half from there, and deliberately crushed his head to pieces with a hatchet, took what money they could find, and returned home. John Burnett is still at large.

Col. A. C. Pepper.

We find the following in the Goshen Democrat of December 4. We had not intended to say any thing more at present in relation to the person alluded to, but the remarks of the Democrat are so pithy and appropriate, that we cannot deny our readers the benefit of them. We have no more disposition, by the way, to disparage the 12 months' military services of Col. P., than the editor of the Democrat has; but if such services, while yet a boy, entitle him to be kept in the fattest civil offices for the remainder of his life, we should like to come under the same rule; for it is a fact, that the name of one of the editors of this paper will be found on the Army rolls of 1812, as well as that of Col. Pepper; and it is also true, that if he is not now a Colonel, he is a Captain of Militia, which, by some, since the era of Captain Tyler, is supposed to be one of the most popular of military grades! We don't know but Dr. Ellis himself might participate in the benefit of the same rule; for though his name may not be upon the Army list, and though he may never have "killed an Indian," he no doubt, like another Doctor we wot of, has bled for his country, and not only bled but blistered too!

But hear the Doctor: The Madison Courier of the 15th ult., has a labored article in defence of this gentleman, in reply to a few paragraphs published by us some time last August. As we have no room for so lengthily a production, we can only give its substance, which is, that he served 12 months during the last war, and was honorably discharged—that he held the office of Commissioner—was member of the Legislature several times—came within 500 votes of being elected Lieut. Governor—held the office of Indian Agent for 12 years, and has been Commissioner of the Sinking Fund; and is as much like his neighbors, and of good moral character, as any man in the State. The Courier says: "Had Dr. Ellis himself been appointed, (and he was not an applicant,) Col. Pepper never would have said aught against it."

All this may be true enough, but does not controvert a word we have said. We asserted that he had been constantly in the office of the Commissioner of the Sinking Fund, and that he had been rich and fat at the public crib—that instead of healing the dysentery in his country, he was in pursuit of personal emolument, and that there were other men and poor men, who had performed as important services for their country and their party, as Col. Pepper; and who would make as good and efficient officers as he. No man questions the right to be an applicant for all the offices of the State; but whether he is entitled to them all is another question. We shall bear with christian fortitude under the infliction for the next four years, full in the faith that as every thing earthly has a terminus, so will these peppering also come to an end. If it require forty years of the best offices in the State, to compensate him for his twelve months' service during the last war, (and for what other means is his pompous parade of his honorable discharge?) let him have them, and then let him retire contented and happy, as we hope he will be. With him we have no quarrel, but to those who looked one way and rowed another, at the proper time, we have something to say.

The Tariff—the Currency.

We find the following valuable statistics in the N. Y. Morning News:

The state of the foreign trade continues very heavy under the weight of the Tariff, not counteracted by any material expansion of paper credits. The influence of the duties is to raise the price of certain articles, and when that is the case during a season of generally low prices, the consumption of those articles the prices of which are so enhanced is greatly checked; when, however, the influence of the tariff is counterbalanced, and the usual consumption is resumed. In illustration, we take from official sources the following table of the quantity of foreign goods, less specie, consumed in the United States under the tariff of 1828-30, and under those of 1841-42:

CONSUMPTION OF FOREIGN GOODS AND DUTY OF DUTY UNDER THE OLD AND NEW TARIFF.			
Foreign Goods Consumed	Dutiable	Gross Duties	Net Duties
1828	66,914,807 \$5.90	76,130,648	29,951,251
1829	55,354,467	47,568,687	27,888,701
1830	49,569,099	42,438,075	28,389,305
1831	83,157,598	69,934,499	36,596,118
1841	112,477,096	64,019,264	19,919,492
1842	88,067,072	4,609,534,601	16,822,744
1843	37,294,696	2,009,179,215	10,314,517
1844	96,391,554	5,565,668,154	29,137,660
1845	104,178,211	5,226,934,661	27,427,325

The tariff of 1841 imposed 30 per cent. duties upon articles before free, and produced a material effect upon the consumption of goods. 1843 was the first year of the operation of the tariff of 1842, as was 1829 the first of that of 1828. In each year the consumption of goods per head declined 30 per cent; in 1843, however, as compared with 1841, which period embraced the operation of two tariffs, the consumption per head fell exactly 50 per cent. the figures being 1843 37,294,696 and 1841 76,130,648. The consumption per head is calculated at the actual population of each year, and to the ratio of increase from census to census; as for instance, the increase of population from 1820 to 1830 was 33.25 per cent., and from 1830 to 1840, 32.67 per cent.; at this decreasing ratio, therefore, the population of 1845 was 16 per cent. more than that of 1840, which was 17,099,433; the increase was therefore 2,731,112, and the population 19,830,545. On this principle the consumption per head is calculated in each year. The effect of the decreased consumption in 1830 was an advance of 50 per cent. in the consumption of the following year, and the result was precisely the same in 1844, with the exception that the consumption per head was never before so small as in 1843, and the reaction should therefore have been much larger. This was not, however, the case, because there was no artificial means of purchasing goods by bank notes, which had been in existence the former period. In order to illustrate this, we will take a table of the loans and circulation of the late National Bank, and those of New York, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts, in 1830 and nearest to 1832:

SPECIE AND CIRCULATION OF CERTAIN BANKS IN 1830 AND 1832.			
1830.	Circulation.	1832.	Circulation.
U. S. Bk.	40,463,805	13,134,145	66,239,707
Mass.	27,987,234	5,124,090	38,884,227
N. Y.	20,370,693	7,959,202	57,689,704
Penn.	21,474,173	7,308,363	31,587,030
Total	110,495,905	33,585,587	194,460,168
			56,665,238
			33,964,243

There was an enormous expansion at the great commercial centers, which extended to the remote interior, gave vitality to those long dated bills, enabled dealers of all classes to sell their goods at extended credits, and thus swell the imports. In those two years the United States Bank and the New York banks increased their loans \$63,000,000. The former has now ceased to exist, and the banks of New York, from 1842 to August, 1844, added but \$15,243,956 to their loans. In these facts we have sufficient cause for the moderate reaction of 1844, as compared with that of 1831. The imports into the United States for the first quarter, ending September 30, 1845, shows a decline of 11 per cent. from the corresponding quarter of 1845.

FLORIDA.—The St. Augustine Herald, of the 15th, has the following: "We understand that Captain Sprague meets the chiefs Billy Bowlegs and Sam Jones at Charlotte Harbor, on the 25th proximo, by appointment, in reference to their present situation and emigration to the country assigned the Seminoles in the West."

"Every Florida man will rejoice with us, that there is a prospect that all cause of dissension will be removed speedily. We have every confidence in the prudence, patriotism and energy of Captain Sprague, and believe that he will be able to effect what years of offensive war could not accomplish."

"This is the first time that Sam has consented to meet us on the basis of removal; and we ardently wish that he may yield to peaceable influences."

PRETTY HEAVY DAMAGES.—At Staunton, Va., a few days since, Jacob Copenhagen recovered \$50,000 damages of Sampson Pelter, for seducing the daughter of the former, a girl 17 years old. "Served him right."

DEMOCRATIC MEETINGS.

Knox County.

A meeting of the Democrats of Vincennes township, Knox county, was held at the Town Hall, in Vincennes, on the 29th ult., and Wm. B. BURTON, Esq., was appointed chairman, and S. H. ELLIOTT, Secretary.

The following gentlemen were appointed delegates to the Democratic State Convention, to be held in this city on the 8th of January, viz:

John Law, Wm. W. Carr, John R. Jones, Jerome B. Myers, James Scott, Wm. J. Wise, John Moore, John B. Hannan, John Marney Wm. Hayes, Davis Ryan, S. H. Elliott, James S. Mayer, Wm. C. Scott, Foster General, and Messrs. Rodgers, Robert Hodgess, Jas. P. Badollet, and M. L. Edson.

After the transaction of some local business, the following resolution was adopted, on motion of J. B. Myers, Esq.:

Resolved, That we will most cordially give our support to the Democratic nominees for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, when nominated by the Democratic Convention, which meet at Indianapolis on the 8th of January next, and use all honorable means for their election.

The following resolutions were then introduced by the Hon. John Law, and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the principles and policy of the Democratic party as manifested in their resolutions adopted at the convention, at Baltimore, in November last, are the true principles and policy of the party now. That with those principles before us, we entered into the contest which resulted in the election of James K. Polk and Geo. M. Dallas. That the election thus terminating in behalf of the Democratic party, by a large and decided majority, is a clear indication of the popular sentiment in favor of those resolutions, and of the earnest desire and wish of the Democratic party to see them carried out in all their bearings by the present administration.

Resolved, That among the resolutions there adopted, none were more cordially responded to by the democracy of the west than that which declared "our title to the whole of the territory of Oregon clear and indisputable; that no portion of it ought to be ceded to England or any other power; and that the occupation of Oregon, at the earliest practicable period, was a great American measure, recommending itself to the moral support of the Democracy of the Union."

Resolved, That, as a portion of that democracy, we view the question as "a great American measure," and that we hail with pleasure the prompt, manly, patriotic and American response of the President to that resolution, in his inaugural speech, in which he repeats "that our right is clear and unquestionable;" and that we trust, hope and believe, that in his forthcoming message, he will repeat the sentiment, and advise such measures as may be deemed necessary to more fully assert our right, and terminate the joint occupancy of the territory.

Resolved, That the reassertion by the President of our right and title to the whole of Oregon, will be hailed by the Democratic party, and by all true patriots throughout the length and breadth of the land, with joy and gladness, as asserting "a right clear and unquestionable;" and one which, if necessary, must be maintained at all hazards.

Resolved, That the title of the United States to the Territory of Oregon, above the forty-ninth parallel of latitude to fifty-four degrees forty minutes, is as clear and unquestionable as that to the territory between the forty-second and forty-ninth parallels—that if we are not entitled to the one by discovery, occupation, or treaty, we are to the other.

Resolved, That looking to the inordinate thirst of territory, the spirit of aggrandizement, and to the tortuous course of English policy, whenever her own selfish views are to be carried out, we cannot too often reiterate the sentiment of Mr. Monroe, a sentiment which, we believe, responded to by the whole west, "that no foreign power must in any event be permitted to colonize any portion of the American continent."

Jennings County.

At a meeting of the Democrats of Jennings county, held at the Court House, on Saturday the 6th day of December, 1845, for the purpose of appointing delegates to represent them in the State Convention to be held at Indianapolis on the 8th of January next, to select candidates to be run on the Democratic ticket for Governor and Lt. Governor at the ensuing August election.

On motion of Achilles Vawter, John McGannon, Esq., was called to the chair, and W. Jennings Vawter appointed Secretary.

On motion, it was voted that the chair appoint a committee of three to select from each township in said county, five delegates. Whereupon the chair announced the following as said committee: Achilles Vawter, Dr. P. Aill and Morris Wilsey, Esq.

The committee having retired, in a short time reported to the meeting the names of the following delegates: Sand Creek Township.—Morris Wilsey, John Kelly, and C. C. Jones, James McCommon, William A. Jones.

Columbia Township.—Mr. Hargre, Dorsey Chaney, Samuel Glasgow, Wm. P. Shields, Seth Stratton.

Campbell Township.—Bowen C. Heath, Jasper H. Grinstead, Martin Swagered, John T. Grinstead.

Franklin Township.—Thomas Bland, Asahel Merrill, Wm. Wagner, John Merrill.

Montgomery Township.—D. M. Hill, John Cobb, Boyd W. Hudson, Wm. Redman, Isaac Corryell.

Marion Township.—Andrew Wilson, Geo. Bridges, Leonard Barnes, Evan Wilson, Sidney Butler.

Spencer Township.—Jesse Whitcomb, C. S. Maynard, H. C. Haws, Monroe Swarthout, Henry Sullivan.

Gracia Township.—Albert Andrews, Dr. McClure, Benjamin Mapes, James Clark, Dr. Andrews.

Vernon Township.—Achilles Vawter, P. Hill, Jas. E. Wilson, James Shields, Francis Tweedy.

On motion, the meeting concurred in the report of said committee.

On motion of D. G. Vawter, the meeting adopted unanimously the following resolutions:

Resolved, That we have full and unqualified confidence in the political honesty and integrity of Jas. K. Polk and Geo. M. Dallas, President and Vice President of the U. S.

Resolved, That our opinion, heretofore expressed at the ballot box, of James Whitcomb and Jesse D. Bright, Governor and Lt. Governor of Indiana, is unshaken, and we will be on all occasions prepared to give them our undivided support.

Resolved, That we fully approve of the course pursued by J. P. and Geo. A. Chapman, editors of the State Sentinel, since the commencement of its publication; and that we disapprove of the course taken by a few selfish seeking politicians who inhabit in and about the capital; and further, that we believe the course pursued by a certain set of self-called democrats is calculated to disorganize and distract us as a party, and strengthen the cause of federalism.

On motion, the editors of the State Sentinel, Experiment and Madison Courier are requested to make publication of the foregoing proceedings.

On motion, the meeting adjourned.

JOHN MCGANNON, Pres't.

W. JENNINGS VAWTER, Sec'y.

Washington Correspondence.

WASHINGTON.

Saturday Evening, Dec. 6, 1845.

Messrs. Editors of the Indiana State Sentinel:

Since my last, little else has been done by either branch of Congress, than to progress with preliminaries. Both Houses, on Thursday, adjourned over until Monday next. In the previous time, the House of Representatives had perfected its organization, by the election of B. R. French of New Hampshire, as Clerk, Ritchie & Heise, publishers of the "Union," as printers, Newton Lane as Sergeant-at-Arms; Cornelius S. Whitney of Illinois as Doorkeeper, and Jas. R. Johnson as Postmaster. Messrs. French, Lane and Johnson held the same places under the last Congress.

The Senate has not yet elected its officers. Canvases were held on Friday by members of each political party, at which nominations were made, and the election will probably come off on Monday or Tuesday. The Democrats nominated for Secretary, the Hon. Jos. Sturgess of Georgia; for printers, Messrs. Ritchie & Heise; for Sergeant-at-Arms, Robt. Beale of Virginia, and for Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, Dr. Seth Salisbury of Pennsylvania. I did not learn the nominations made by the Whigs, further than that of Asbury Dickens, the present incumbent for Secretary. The other questions attract but little interest, compared to this, which produces considerable excitement on account of the great amount of money patronage connected with it—the number of clerks dependent on the Secretary; and the fears of some and the hopes of others that some of the democratic Senators—particularly Mr. Benton—will sustain Mr. Dickens, notwithstanding his whig principles.

It is understood that if a change of the Principal Clerk, by the change of all the subordinates, and that if Mr. Dickens is continued, all the dependencies will remain. For this reason, if for no other, I could hope that no democratic would do such violence to the wishes of his friends and the rights of the party—and I may add the interest of the public, as to vote for the re-election of Mr. D. But I look further. If the democratic Senators and Representatives, coming "fresh from the ranks of the people," have not the heart or disposition to employ their friends instead of their enemies, what grounds have we for asking the administration to displace any of the four hundred and odd whigs now in office in the various departments here!

A warm debate occurred in the Senate on Thursday, on a motion to dispense with the rule, which provides that standing committees shall be chosen by ballot, and to give the power of appointing them to the Vice President. Messrs. Allen, Benton, Breckinridge, Mangum, and some others took part in the debate; and the motion was finally lost, by the whigs, en masse, and Messrs. Bagby, Benton, Haywood, and Westcott, voting in the negative.

On the same day, an interesting, and on the whole, very laughable scene, occurred in the House of Representatives, by the discussion, resolution, and carrying into effect of a resolution, previously introduced, annulling the old rule, relative to the selection of seats by the members, and disposing of them anew by lottery. It seems that the practice this year, under the previous rule, requiring each member to select his seat "in person," and giving them the benefit of the miller's rule—"first come, first serve," had given great umbrage. The members of the last Congress were re-elected to this, and who remained in the House, and who were re-elected to the Senate, before leaving the city, and some as soon after the adjournment as they could, jump from their old seats to those of their choice. This forced new members into "Sleepy Hollow," and outside rows, which was more exceedingly disagreeable, especially those who have come with the expectation of surprising the members by their eloquence, and who wanted a good place.

A rich, spicy and animated debate occurred on the resolution, but which was cut short by the previous question being called and sustained, and the resolution adopted. Then came a scene, which no Hogarth or Cruikshank could improve upon. The two hundred and twenty-six names of members were placed in a box, and several drawn out—the first drawn having the first choice, and so on. Then might be seen the members, in great excitement, each other, right and left, up and down, and down the middle, some scolding, some laughing, some swearing, (for members of Congress, I find, can swear,) lunging arms full of books and stationery, dropping, now and then, a bundle, an ink-stand or wafer-box, and in stooping to gather this, becoming a stumbling block for others, then rising and hastening to another quarter, where they might enjoy "a better or worse," another eighteen inch office.

Among the amusing incidents, was that presented by the celebrated Mr. McConnell, from Alabama, who had selected a seat at the close of the last session, and before he was known even as a candidate for election to this Congress. Failing in his opposition to the resolution, he planted himself in his chair, announcing his intention to adhere to it at all hazards. Fortunately for him, he was the first man drawn, and consequently, he was enabled to make good his words, without interfering with the destinies of others.

The President's message has been the theme of contemplation and remark, until the subject has become exhausted—if a theme so prolific, a production so rich, can become exhausted. It is not a weak expression of the fact to say that no message, from the days of Washington, has had so great an amount of praise; or kindled a greater degree of enthusiasm in the hearts of the American people. This, however, you have unquestionably read, in your exchange papers—have seen on every republican canvasser. Even the Whigs have now found out "who James K. Polk is," and acknowledge that he is not the "third-rate lawyer" they had represented him to be in 1844.

Give me the documents which accompanied the Message any less important, or less able productions. The correspondence with the British Government on the territory West of the Rocky Mountains, will show to the world what we claim, why we claim it, and what we have done all that an honorable nation could be asked to do, on the subject—and even more; and having done this much, no nation or individual can, in justice, say aught against us if we now suspend diplomacy on the subject and apply to the first rule of nature. It is seen that the offer, renewed by Mr. Buchanan, to make the 49th parallel of latitude our northern boundary, was not accepted by the British Government; though I do not regret, nor can I condemn the policy which induced the offer to be made. Had this offer been accepted, to the people of this country would never have been satisfied. Knowing they wronged to them, they would never have consented to the war, and they would have been the masses in the United States, will be willing to surrender one title of their rights to British army or British captivity. With them the motto is—"not one cent for tribute, but millions for defence!" not one inch of American soil for temporizing diplomacy, but oceans of blood, if necessary, for a free continent.

But the die is now cast. Diplomacy on this subject must be no more. It can go no further; and with Congress to decide upon those measures necessary to secure us in the quiet possession of our rights, and our people in the exercise of those prerogatives which belong to them, and then alone. The question of policy, as well as right, now is, "all of Oregon or none."

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury shows great reason, and who consider the magnitude of the duties imposed upon him by his office, the most indefatigable industry. The grounds he assumes are fully defended—his positions fully illustrated.

In the report of the Secretary of the Navy, the reputation of the Historian of America loses nothing on the score of erudition. But this feature is far from being the greatest merit in that production. The keen perception of the statesman is seen in every department, and the boldness of the patriot in every suggestion. That branch of the public service has long been an eye-sore to the sober thinking, honest, and working portion of the people of the United States. Abuses and errors have long existed, and yet, till now, we have not had a head to that branch of the government with the skill to ferret them out, and the nerve to call the attention of Congress to them.

It is a great comfort to know that I should find all the reading space in your paper, and yet not half exhaust the subject; but I trust you will not fail to publish entire a document so replete with wholesome recommendations. I will, however, add the single remark that with all the foresight and diligence of Mr. Bancroft, it will be exceedingly difficult for him to produce the thorough, radical reform necessary, so long as the several Bureaus in that Department are required to be filled by officers in that service; men who from long enjoyment of life stations, under enormous salaries, have become aristocratic, and lost all ideas of economy, or regard for popular views and reforms. If Congress really desire to carry out the reforms so clearly shown to be necessary, they will lose no time in relieving him of this incumbency, and give him an opportunity to call to his aid the common sense and co-operation of practical men.

The report of the Secretary of War, also contains many valuable suggestions, promulgated in Mr. Marcy's usual plain and forcible manner, and which he has not been idle or inattentive to the important interests over which he has been called to preside. It is to be regretted that the new postage system works so badly as to require an increase of the rates of postage. Still the increase which Mr. Johnson recommends is so small, compared to the old rates, that I suppose Congress will have no hesitation in amending the law accordingly.

I regret to learn that Mr. McDuffie is so indisposed that it is doubtful whether he will be able to be in the Senate at the election of officers to-morrow. Senator Woodbridge is also confined to his room. Mr. Dickinson and Mr. Calhoun have not yet arrived.

I am pained also, with this report evening, that that valuable officer, Maj. Hobbes, First Assistant Postmaster General, lies at the point of death.

Yours truly,
TIMOLEON.

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